

# CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

*Supplement to*

## THE WORLD TODAY

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ARGENTINA. *July 19.*—The President's message to Gen. Franco. (*see Spain.*) Leaflets attacking the U.S. Ambassador were distributed in Buenos Aires.

AUSTRALIA. *July 12.*—It was learnt that Mr. J. B. Chifley had been elected Prime Minister.

AUSTRIA. *July 14.*—The fraternization ban in the British zone of occupation was lifted.

Hr. Lambert, who had been visiting western Europe as Dr. Renner's personal representative, told the press in Paris that the demarcation line between Russia and other zones of Austria was a rigorous barrier to movement, and thousands of people were waiting to cross. Within the Russian zone, however, movement was freer than in other zones. The Austrians had been given full responsibility for civil government; political parties were functioning and theatres and cinemas were working to full houses. The Austrian authorities had arrested in Vienna 3,600 Nazis, and 100,000 Nazi Party members had been registered and were doing compulsory labour. In the American zone few Nazis were arrested and those that had been arrested by the Austrian police had been released by the occupiers. Speaking of the disadvantages of Russian occupation, he said that they considered everything as liable to requisition. Nearly all the cattle had been taken, as well as factory machinery, and telephones, stocks of clothes, fuel, turbines, petrol refineries, and electric transformers.

Typhus had broken out in Vienna, and there was no gas and very little electricity. There was urgent need of opening communications between the zones as Lower Austria had some wheat, but almost no vegetables, meat, fats, some of which were available in western Austria. In addition, the Government included no representatives of western Austria, as travel from those areas to Vienna was impossible.

Hr. Lambert pointed out that no salaries had been paid to anyone

since the country had been liberated. The Russian Commissar for prizes of war had seized everything in the banks. The situation was grave and he appealed to the Allies not to let down the new Austrian republic as they had done the first one in 1918, 1933, and 1938.

With regard to relations with neighbouring countries, including Czechoslovakia, the same principle of requisition had been enforced so that help could not be forthcoming. Owing to lack of electricity it was impossible to listen to the wireless so that there was such great ignorance of international affairs that Dr. Renner had asked him what the San Francisco Conference was about.

**BELGIUM.** *July 14.*—The Prime Minister made the following statement to the press: "The Government delegation which went to Salzburg told the King that the Government was unanimously of opinion that in the case of non-abdication a Parliamentary debate was inevitable. The King has decided not to return to Belgium. He has also decided not to abdicate. There is therefore no definite decision. In consequence, the Government resumes its functions."

*July 16.*—The British Ambassador was received by M. Van Acker.

*July 17.*—At a session of the Chamber M. Van Acker read the King's letter to the Regent, in which he said that if he were convinced that the nation wished for his abdication he would not hesitate to abdicate. Although Parliamentary opposition was directed against him, he had received information that convinced him that an important majority in the country insisted on his return. He had, therefore, resolved to conform to the principles of their Constitution which decreed that all powers emanated from the nation. The present circumstances had brought about a lack of balance between Parliament and the nation which prevented him from knowing the people's will. He would, therefore, defer his decision until regular elections had restored this balance. Only the national will could induce him to relinquish his great responsibility.

For the sake of peace he would not return to his country until after the elections, and he asked all his supporters to respect his decision, and to rally round the Regent. He reminded his compatriots that only their unbreakable unity would enable them to save the freedom that made them a great people who were able to overcome the gravest crises without resort to political or social revolution.

The 6 Catholic (Conservative) members of the Government resigned.

M. Van Acker asked the Chamber of Representatives for the passage of a Bill to provide that the Regency would not be terminated without Parliament's permission. The Bill was passed by 98 votes to 6.

Referring to the King's letter, M. Van Acker said: "The Government is of opinion that a referendum, or even a general election at which the question of the King would be raised is not a form of expression of the national will compatible with a constitutional monarchy and the Parliamentary regime."

*July 18.*—The Bill prolonging the Regency until Parliament should terminate it was passed by the Senate by 87 votes to 58. M. Van Acker

told the Senate that he had always supported the monarchy, and the Government had done nothing to prevent the return of the King.

*July 19.*—It was learnt that the King had told the American press that his mistakes had been of method, not of principle. His conscience was clear, and he denied that his surrender was premeditated and pre-arranged with the Nazis. He had been a prisoner of war and treated like one. He had surrendered in 1940 because: "I felt that I should stay with my people and because I felt that, with me in Belgium, the Germans would rule the country on a military instead of a civilian basis. The Government changed from military to civil soon after I was sent to Austria by the Nazis."

*July 20.*—M. Van Acker, speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, said: "All criticisms of the King can be summed up in a single sentence: Faced with the German invasion, he did not react like the nation as a whole." In particular, he had not gone abroad with his Government; secondly, he had tried to hinder the reconstitution of the Belgian Army in England; thirdly, his wife's father had been a provincial governor who had been dismissed from office by the King himself; he had also failed to prevent the deportation of Belgian workers to German factories.

The Socialists and Communists supported M. Van Acker in asking for the King's abdication. Count de Wiart, on behalf of the Catholics, said that the debate had stirred up bad feeling at home and had tarnished the country's name abroad. The King himself, and not Parliament, should decide whether he should abdicate.

CEYLON. *June 17.*—At a meeting of the State Council a message was read from the Secretary of State for the Colonies explaining why he was unable to advise that the Sri Lanka Bill passed by the State Council should be given the Royal assent. The measure conferring full Dominion status on the colony paid no regard to the reservations made in the British Government's declaration of May 26, 1943 regarding constitutional reforms.

*July 18.*—The State Council passed by 31 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions, a motion moved by the acting leader protesting against the British Government's rejection of the Sri Lanka Home Rule Bill on the ground that it was a "denial of the people's right to freedom and to determine their own Constitution". An amendment calling for the Council's dissolution and the placing of the issue before the country was defeated by 37 votes to 5.

CHINA. *July 14.*—Russo-Chinese statement on negotiations in Moscow. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

*July 17.*—Mr. T. V. Soong, accompanied by the Soviet Ambassador, returned to Chungking from Moscow.

*July 18.*—It was learnt that the People's Political Council meeting in Chungking passed the following resolutions: (a) that the Government should conclude mutual aid pacts and military alliances with Russia, Britain, and France, on the lines of the Anglo-Soviet and Franco-Soviet

treaties; (b) that the Government should designate the Emperor of Japan a war criminal and (c) that the United Nations Charter should be promptly ratified. The Council gave its approval to the transfer of central Government troops from Kansu Province, near the Communist area, to other parts of the country.

DENMARK. *July 9.*—It was learnt that the Government had recognized the Polish Provisional Government.

*July 18.*—The Norwegian Foreign Minister arrived in Copenhagen. Arrival of delegation of the resistance movement in Paris. (*see France.*)

EIRE. *July 11.*—In reply to Mr. Dillon Mr. de Valera stated in the Dail that Eire was a republic.

*July 17.*—Mr. de Valera told the Dail that he could not argue with anyone who persisted in denying that Eire was a republic. No lawyer would attempt to argue that the country was a monarchy because of the External Relations Act of 1936. After saying that Eire was "a democracy with the ultimate sovereign power resting with the people", Mr. de Valera continued: "The position as I conceive it to be is this: We are an independent republic associated as a matter of our external policy with the States of the British Commonwealth. To mark this association we avail ourselves of the procedure of the External Relations Act, by which the King recognized by those States of the British Commonwealth therein named acts for us under advice in certain specified matters, in the field of our external relations."

He concluded by quoting a statement issued by the British Government in 1937 stating that the present Eire Constitution in the view both of themselves and of other Commonwealth Governments effected no fundamental change in Eire's position as a member of the Commonwealth. There had been no constitutional or other change since then to alter the situation.

*July 18.*—Winding up the debate in the Dail on the estimates for the Department of External Affairs, Mr. de Valera said that his declaration on the republic was one of fact. By a republic he always meant the independence of the Irish people, and the form of government mattered relatively little. Irish independence was incompatible with acceptance of the Crown because the struggle had been against the Crown. Their only Government could be a republic. They had always shown their readiness to associate with the British Commonwealth in the realm of external affairs, and had steadily adhered to that policy. "As far as I am concerned," Mr. de Valera continued, "as long as this country is accepted on that basis in the British Commonwealth, I am prepared to stand by that policy." He was not animated by hatred or bitterness towards Britain. He wanted to see Ireland and England as good neighbours, ready to co-operate in common interests, and also wanted friendship and understanding with the other nations of the Commonwealth, but as long as the partition of Ireland continued she could not

play the part she desired in world affairs. As long as Britain supported partition, the Irish people would have no faith in her professions.

*July 19.*—Mr. de Valera, speaking in the Dail on his visit to the German Minister in Dublin after Hitler's death, said: "When we receive the representative of another State we are not concerned with the internal policy of that State, as long as we have peaceful relations with that State. It must be clearly understood that when the representative of a foreign State comes here he comes as the representative of the people and the nation, not as the representative of a particular Government, and his being here implies no question of approval or disapproval by us of any decision on the policy of that State. My visit to the German Minister was taken in accordance with the procedure and the practice that has been established here, and which is almost the universal practice."

Speaking on partition, he said that there was a part of Ulster that was being coerced. They had denied at any time the right to partition their nation, but whatever case might be made for doing that on the grounds of a minority who objected to the rule of a majority, this could not apply to areas like South Down, South Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh, and Derry City. Partition was a cruel wrong to the country. On the question of a common defence for Eire and Britain, Mr. de Valera said that Eire had no imperial aspirations or interests, but to arrange a policy of defence which would only apply when Irish interests were clearly involved would not be easy even with a united Ireland.

**FINLAND.** *July 17.*—The President appointed M. Tomgren as Minister of Finance instead of M. Tuomioja.

**FRANCE.** *July 9.*—The Council of Ministers announced that it had unanimously adopted a Bill providing for the election, by universal suffrage, of a National Constituent Assembly, which would, in turn, elect the President of the Provisional Government. Temporary arrangements had been worked out for governing the country until the future Constitution could be applied. The Constitution drawn up by the National Assembly would be submitted to the nation, and a referendum would be held on the present Bill.

It was learnt that Jean Paquis, Paris radio commentator during the German occupation, had been arrested.

*July 11.*—Ferdonnet was sentenced to death by a Paris Court.

*July 12.*—Gen. de Gaulle, broadcasting from Paris on his Government's plans for the election of a constituent body, said: "On the way in which we rebuild our institutions the future of France will largely depend." It was clear that the regime of the 3rd Republic had for years "failed to correspond to true realities". He believed that there was general agreement that it was the country as a whole which must decide whether their present institutions were valid. It would be decided by universal suffrage whether the elected Assembly should be a Constituent Assembly, with a mandate to draft a new Constitution. It should not, he said, be made an omnipotent Constitution. Several

experiments had been made elsewhere in a single and all-powerful Assembly which had almost invariably failed. The Government proposed that a transitory régime should govern until a Constitution had been decided.

It was officially announced in Paris that S.H.A.E.F. had been dissolved as from July 13.

*July 13.*—The Bey of Tunis arrived in Paris.

*July 18.*—The Minister of the Interior told the Consultative Assembly that only 50,000 Moslems took part in the nationalist risings in Algeria during May, and that not more than 10,000 troops were called on to restore order. Total French casualties were 88 killed and 150 wounded, and Moslem casualties 1,500 according to local French civilian estimates, but only 500 according to local military estimates. He added that 44 small Moslem villages were bombed, 2,400 Moslems arrested, of whom 517 had been released, and 44 death sentences passed.

A delegation comprising 17 members of the Danish resistance movement arrived in Paris and met the Foreign Minister and members of the National Resistance Council.

It was learnt that Paul Marion, former Vichy Secretary of State for Information and Propaganda, had been arrested in Innsbruck by the French First Army.

GERMANY. *July 10.*—Marshal Zhukov, Gen. Weeks, and Gen. Clay met in Berlin and agreed that contributions to the city's food supply should come from all the occupied zones of Germany. The fuel problem was also discussed.

*July 12.*—British and American authorities took over the military government of their respective zones of occupation in Berlin.

*July 13.*—It was officially announced that the Berlin municipal council had decided to confiscate the property of all members of the Nazi party and those who "reaped benefits from the Nazi party, State, army, or economy".

*July 14.*—The fraternization ban in British and American occupation zones was lifted.

*July 15.*—Berlin radio announced that Mr. Churchill, Mr. Eden, Mr. Atlee, the Minister of War Transport, the Paymaster General, and the 3 Chiefs of Staff had arrived at Potsdam, and that F.-M. Alexander, Montgomery, and Maitland Wilson, and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr would be present at the conference.

It was announced that President Truman had arrived in Potsdam.

It was learnt that representatives of the Social Democratic party, the German Communist party, the Christian Democratic Union, and the Liberal Democratic party, in the Russian zone, drew up the following declaration of policy: (1) Co-operation in cleansing Germany from the remnants of Hitlerism and rebuilding the country on anti-Fascist and democratic lines. (2) Speedy reconstruction of the national economy to secure bread, clothing, work, and homes. (3) The establishment of full recognition of personal rights. (4) Security for freedom of belief and thought and respect for religious convictions. (5) Reconquest of trust



and the establishment, on a mutual basis of respect, of relations with other nations. An honest readiness to carry out the orders of the occupying authorities and recognition of the German duty in making good the ravages of war.

*July 17.*—President Truman, Marshal Stalin, and Mr. Churchill had their first session at Potsdam.

*July 20.*—The World Jewish Congress sent an appeal to the Potsdam Conference drawing attention to the plight of thousands of Jews in Germany.

**GREAT BRITAIN.** *July 8.*—It was learnt that F.-M. Alexander had arrived in the country.

*July 10.*—The Turkish Foreign Minister arrived in Britain.

*July 11.*—Mr. Eden received the Turkish Foreign Minister, and later the French Ambassador.

*July 12.*—M. Drozniak, a member of the commission sent to London by the Warsaw Government to secure Polish property in Britain, told the press that Poland had lost between 6 and 7 million of her people, and her economic and educational conditions were grave. They had begun to rebuild, but they needed the help of the Great Powers. They had enough flour and potatoes but were short of fats, meat, clothing, medicaments, machinery, and books. The U.S.S.R. had sent food as a gift and was now sending more, as well as cotton, wool, and iron ore, under a trading agreement. Poland was sending coal to the U.S.S.R. and having trade talks with Italy, Rumania, and Yugoslavia. Industries, he said, were being brought into combines, which were under official supervision, and the coal and iron, power, and transport industries were under Government control.

The Regent of Iraq, replying to the press in London on the question of his Government's attitude to the forthcoming request by the Zionist Conference in London for the emergency allocation of 100,000 additional certificates for Jews to enter Palestine, said: "The position of all the Arab States is that they would oppose this demand as being contrary to the White Paper to which they agreed. The Arabs are not prepared to make any further concessions."

*July 17.*—Mr. V. F. W. Cavendish-Bentinck was appointed Ambassador to the Polish Provisional Government.

The Foreign Office issued a statement on the alleged secret agreement of 1940 between the British Government and Vichy, showing that the allegations made in France were without foundation.

**GREECE.** *July 11.*—The press reported that on July 10 the Prime Minister had asked the British and U.S. Governments for an Allied occupation of the northern Epirus, to protect the Greek population against alleged outrages by the Albanians.

*July 12.*—An appeal was issued by E.A.M., saying: "The entire State machinery—the administration, the army, the police, and the judiciary—is ruled by Fascist remnants, "Quislings", and the enemy's collaborators. The whole resistance movement is ruthlessly perse-

cuted; 60,000 men of the liberation army, E.L.A.S., are victimized, imprisoned, tortured, humiliated, and murdered . . . Instead of law and order numerous armed bands, tolerated or actively supported by State organs, are blockading villages, making mass arrests, murdering, looting, and torturing . . . The Greek people . . . appeal to the democratic fellow combatant people all over the world . . . to exert their mighty influence in order that democratic liberties be established in Greece according to international pledges."

*July 13.*—It was learnt that the Prime Minister had broadcast a statement that Greece's struggle would not end until her national claims were satisfied. He denied reports of trouble in the northern frontier regions. The internal situation was difficult, but they would quell any attempt to cause disorder or to exploit the nation's difficulties or threaten civil freedom. "When we succeed in restoring normality," he said, "we will ensure to the Greek people a free expression of its will." They had an indissoluble friendship with the Yugoslav people, who would not threaten their integrity or oppose their aims.

*July 16.*—The Prime Minister, the Ministers of Justice and of the Interior, and leaders of the democratic parties conferred. An official statement was issued that they had facts which, in their opinion demonstrated that a disorderly situation was prevailing in the country. It was decided that the facts should be investigated in detail by the representatives of the political parties, and the Ministers of the Interior, Justice, and War. With regard to the continued internment of a large number of people without trial, measures were suggested for granting impartial justice. They declared that unless law and order were established, and repatriation hastened, and those within the country returned to their homes, and unless justice prevailed throughout Greece, no plebiscite could be considered.

*July 20.*—The Director-General of U.N.R.R.A. told the press in Athens that since April they had brought 500,000 tons of goods into the country, and before winter as many supplies as possible would be sent. Up to date the value of shipments to Greece, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Italy had been \$250 million.

**INDIA.** *July 14.*—The Simla conference was closed, having failed to reach the required measure of agreement. Lord Wavell stated at the final meeting that all parties represented at the conference had proposed names for the Executive Council, except the Muslim League. He therefore made provisional selections, including certain Muslim League names, which Mr. Jinnah stated were not acceptable. Lord Wavell, however, wished to make it clear, that the responsibility for the failure of the conference was his, and that this failure should not result in a worsening of communal feeling.

He wanted time to consider the best way he could help India, but in the meantime the Government's stability must be secured, and the prosecution of the war against Japan and the administration and preparation of post-war development must be performed.

Mr. Jinnah told the press that since 1940 the Muslim League had



made 2 conditions for entering the Central Government: (1) that the British should assure them of *Pakistan* after the war; this they had sacrificed for the sake of agreement, (2) that being a separate nation, they should have half the Cabinet. The Wavell plan, however, would have made the Muslims one-third of the Executive Council with no protection except that of the Viceroy's veto. In addition, they were not allowed to have all the Muslim seats; Congress claimed 2, and the Punjab Unionists 1. Lord Wavell had insisted on having one non-member of the League representing the Premier of the Punjab. He added that, on finally analysing the Wavell plan they had found it "a snare". There was a combination of Mr. Gandhi and the Hindu Congress, who stand for India's Hindu national independence as one India; of Lord Wavell, the latest exponent of the geographical unity of India; and of Glancy-Khizr, who are bent on creating disunity among the Punjab Muslims. This combination sought to push the Muslim League into an arrangement that would have signed our death warrant".

Dr. Azad, president of the Congress Party, blamed the Muslim League and the British Government for having in effect given the former a right of veto on India's political progress. The Congress Party, he added, had repeatedly stated their readiness to be responsible for a Government administration. Before advising his party to take part in the conference, he had told the Viceroy that Congress, although agreed that India under the proposed new Government should continue in the war against Japan, were not willing that a single penny should be spared from the Indian Exchequer, or that a single Indian sepoy should be used to restore the countries of south-east Asia to their former Imperialist owners. That applied to the Dutch as well as other Governments. He had, he said, also discussed with the Viceroy: (1) the character of the Indian Army; (2) the Congress opinion that, although the States were in direct relationship with the representatives of the Crown and not the Government of India, the new Government should have the right to discuss, deliberate, and decide on such affairs as commerce, labour, and industries, which were of interest also to British India. On these and other points he had received satisfactory replies from the Viceroy.

*July 19.*—It was officially announced that Indian Army battle casualties up to Feb. 28, 1945, were 149,225, of whom 15,291 were killed.

IRAN. *July 9.*—It was announced in Teheran that the trade unions had invited trade union representatives of Britain, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., and France to visit Iran, and that the Russian delegation had arrived.

ITALY. *July 10.*—The Director-General of U.N.R.R.A., speaking in Rome, said that the outlook for Europe during the winter was not promising as U.N.R.R.A.'s orders had been "curtailed or remained unfulfilled".

*July 11.*—F.-M. Smuts arrived in Rome.

*July 12.*—Disorders occurred in Milan when the crowd tried to

break into the Palace of Justice during the trial by an Allied court of 5 former partisans.

*July 13.*—Sgr. Parri told the press that although Italy had not made a formal request for the cancellation of the armistice terms, they all felt that she had earned it by her military efforts. "I ask the whole world", he said, "that Italy be placed in a position to undertake her political and economic reconstruction herself." When asked whether the Government were beginning trade negotiations with certain countries, he replied, "That depends on the Allied Commission".

*July 14.*—It was announced that Italy was at war with Japan.

More than 50 convicts overpowered the warders at Turin prison and escaped. Half of them were recaptured within 48 hours.

**JAPAN.** *July 21.*—U.S. warning to Japan on surrender. (*see U.S.A.*)

A radio spokesman predicted that President Truman, under pressure from the American people, would modify the demand for unconditional surrender. Changes in the President's Cabinet indicated this. In addition, the U.S.S.R. was "shying away from all attempts to force her to enter the conflict" against Japan, and the British Empire was war weary and was trying "to be relieved of her responsibilities with a minimum token effort". President Truman must reconsider the Rooseveltian policy of meddling in Far Eastern affairs, and in this light they were interpreting recent American moves, and would watch "with profound interest all future moves in Washington political circles".

**MALTA.** *July 19.*—Gen. Schreiber, the Governor, opening the 5th session of the Council of Government, said that he thought it undesirable to hold elections under the existing Constitution. The National Assembly had made slow progress, but further delay in the advance towards self-government rested on the people.

*July 20.*—The National Assembly voted in favour of male and female franchise at 21.

**MEXICO.** *July 12.*—It was learnt that the Foreign Minister, Don Ezequiel Padilla, had resigned.

**NORTHERN IRELAND.** *July 10.*—The results of the General Election were: Unionists 31, and Nationalists 10.

*July 18.*—The King and Queen arrived in Belfast.

**NORWAY.** *July 18.*—Arrival of the Foreign Minister in Copenhagen. (*see Denmark.*)

**POLAND.** *July 7.*—Soviet-Polish trade agreement. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

*July 11.*—It was learnt that an agreement had been signed in Warsaw with Sweden whereby Poland was to supply Sweden with coal, coke, and other raw materials in exchange for iron ore, machinery, telephones, and other equipment.

*July 12.*—Statement in London by M. Drozniak *re* Polish property (*see Great Britain.*)

*July 19.*—U.S. Under-Secretary of State's statement on U.S. Government's attitude to the Provisional Government. (*see U.S.A.*)

**SPAIN.** *July 17.*—In a speech to the Council of the Falange, Gen. Franco said that a traditional monarchy was the only system for Spain. He hoped that in due course the Cortes would examine and the nation approve a law for the monarchy's restoration. The monarchy would have to be strong and flexible, guaranteeing the spirit both of the Falangist movement and of social progress. One of his greatest concerns was to ensure the succession in accordance with the will of the people without impairing the work of the Falange. Those who expected a reactionary turn in Spanish politics were thoroughly mistaken. The Falange was right in discovering that this was an era of social changes. There were only two ways of effecting a revolution: (1) the Communist, by bloodshed, or (2) awakening the hopes of youth by reorganizing the State.

Hostility from abroad was paradoxical at a time when the country was engaged on great social tasks. During her period of democracy, Spain lost her Empire, was plunged into civil war, and nearly lost her own territory. Foreign propaganda hinted that public opinion was against the régime, but never had the political situation been more stable than at present.

*July 19.*—The Minister of Labour, addressing workers, foretold "profound changes . . . without them, and unless our Falangist doctrine is fulfilled, let nobody expect peace, prosperity, or happiness . . . I therefore bid you to remain solidly under the orders of Gen. Franco, who is launching Spain's most glorious adventure".

Gen. Franco received a message from the President of Argentina in connection with the 9th anniversary of the Spanish military rising presenting him "the most cordial wishes of the Argentine Government and people for the greatness and prosperity of Spain".

Press reports from Switzerland stated that from conversations with the Infante Don Juan and leading Spanish monarchists, it appeared that Don Juan was not eager to receive the monarchy from the hands of Gen. Franco, as his throne would thus inherit a heavy legacy from the Franco regime which would be a serious handicap in attempting to solve Spanish problems. Secondly, a restoration would have to be considered in the light of international politics. Thirdly, Gen. Franco's speech was thought to be an attempt to revive his prestige, particularly in the international field.

*July 21.*—Ministerial changes were announced excluding Sr. Arrese. Sr. Cuesta became Minister of Justice, and Sr. Artajo, Foreign Minister.

**SWEDEN.** *July 20.*—It was learnt that Hr. Gunther had confirmed that he would be Minister in Copenhagen from Oct. 1.

**SYRIA AND THE LEBANON.** *July 9.*—A British soldier was killed in Aleppo.

*July 10.*—A joint statement was issued by the Syrian and Lebanese

Governments regarding the handing over to them of the *troupes speciales*, proclaiming "the satisfaction that they feel in taking their troops into their charge".

July 22.—French troops started evacuating their barracks in Syria, and Syrian forces began to move in.

TURKEY. July 10.—The Foreign Minister in Britain. (*see Great Britain.*)

U.S.A. July 9.—It was learnt that the governors of 38 States had petitioned the President to take immediate steps "to open the gates of Palestine to Jewish immigration and settlement and to pave the way for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth".

July 12.—Senator Taft, speaking in the Senate, said that the Bretton Woods agreements, under the guise of international co-operation, amounted to a tremendous plan to lend the people's and the Government's money abroad, and he urged the Senate to delay their decision until Mr. Byrnes and Mr. Vinson should have time to consider their "sweeping implications". The proposed bank and fund should not be established, but Congress should authorize the President to deal directly with emergency conditions.

July 18.—The Senate defeated by 52 votes to 31 a motion moved by Senator Taft seeking to defer the vote on the Bretton Woods agreement until after the calling of an international economic conference.

The Government rubber director, in a final report to the War Production Board, said that by the end of 1945 U.S. stocks of natural rubber would be down to 66,000 tons instead of the recommended minimum of 100,000 tons. In the first half of 1945 the consumption was at the rate of 872,000 tons per annum, compared with 711,000 tons in 1944 and 650,000 in 1940. To avoid a scarcity in 1946 prompt military measures to liberate Malaya and the Dutch East Indies were necessary.

July 19.—The Senate ratified the Bretton Woods agreements by 61 votes to 16.

It was learnt that Mr. Grew, replying to Senator Vandenberg's questions on Poland, had said that the creation of the Provisional Government was a step towards the fulfilment of the Crimea decisions, which would be further implemented when the new Government fulfilled its pledge to hold free elections on the basis of universal suffrage and the secret ballot. The Crimea agreement had provided for Ambassadors of the 3 Great Powers to keep their respective Governments informed about the Polish situation, and therefore the "creation of a new Government does not alone discharge us from responsibilities we assumed at Yalta". He added that while discussing the recognition of the Polish Provisional Government, the Government had made it clear that it expected U.S. correspondents to be permitted to enter Poland, so that the American public could be kept informed of the situation there, and they were also asking the Soviet authorities to allow U.S. correspondents to enter Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

July 21.—The Senate passed the Bill approving of U.S. membership of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

An official spokesman broadcast a warning to the Japanese that unless they surrendered unconditionally before the U.S. re-deployment was completed the opportunity would be lost to Japan, "and, as you know, it will be lost for ever. The war will then be decided by our superior arms, in Japan".

Japanese spokesman's comments on U.S. Cabinet changes. (see Japan.)

U.S.S.R. July 7.—A Soviet-Polish agreement was signed in Moscow providing for a mutual delivery of goods to a value of £30,000,500.

July 14.—A Russo-Chinese statement was issued in Moscow on the negotiations between Marshal Stalin and Mr. Molotov and the Chinese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, which "had for their object and improvement in Russo-Chinese relations, in which connection major problems of interest to both sides were considered. The conversations proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, and revealed the presence of extensive mutual understanding."

July 22.—Marshal Stalin, in an order of the day commemorating Red Navy Day, said: "The Soviet people wish to see its navy still stronger and mightier. Our people will create new fighting ships and new bases for the navy. The task of the navy is tirelessly to train and improve cadres of seamen, to master fully the experience gained in the patriotic war, and to raise still higher naval skill, discipline, and organization."

*Pravda* stated that Russia "is and must be a great naval Power . . . Every crumb of experience in naval warfare must be digested and assimilated by our sailors".

## OUTLINE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

### THE JAPANESE WAR

*The Island Campaign.* In the Brunei Bay sector of Borneo organized Japanese resistance was nearly at an end, there being over 1,000 enemy dead and 100 prisoners. North of Brunei Bay a new landing was made on July 12 near Andus, 5 miles north of Kimanis. The latter place was reached by other troops advancing overland towards Jesselton. Inland from the Seria and Miri oilfields in West Borneo Australian troops captured Maradi.

In the Balikpapan sector Netherlands East Indies forces made two amphibious landings on the north shore of Balikpapan Bay on July 10, and linked up with Australian forces north-west of Mount Batochampar, which was captured on July 15. Other Australian troops landed at Djinabora, 4 miles north of Penajam, on the west shore of Balikpapan Bay, thus completing Allied control of the shore area of the Bay.

The area of captured territory was enlarged. Australian troops on July 11 broke through the first line of enemy defences beyond Manggar on the coast road to the north-east, leading to the Samboja oilfields, and continuing their advance captured Samboja on July 18. On July 23 Gen. MacArthur announced a new landing at Tempadeong, 14 miles north-west of Balikpapan. The Australian troops advanced inland to the Berangoe River. Since the invasion of Borneo 4,400 Japanese had been killed.

In Bougainville Japanese forces crossed the Mivo River and attacked Australian positions. On July 15 it was announced that the battle for the Prince Alexander Range in New Guinea had successfully ended after 8 weeks' fighting.

*Air and Sea Operations.* Air attacks on Japan continued on a large scale, the biggest being on July 20 when 600 Super-Fortresses dropped 4,000 tons of incendiary and other bombs on targets in Honshu. On July 10 over 1,000 carrier-borne planes raided Tokyo from the U.S. Third Fleet. On July 14 warships of the same Fleet bombarded Kamaishi, a railway and industrial centre 275 miles north of Tokyo, and on July 15 the steel centre of Muroran, on the Japanese home island of Hokkaido was shelled. A British force including the battleship *King George V* joined in on July 17 to bombard industrial centres along the Japanese coast 60 miles north of Tokyo. On July 18 carrier aircraft attacked enemy naval forces in the Yokosuka area of Tokyo Bay, sinking 12 Japanese ships and damaging 9, including the 32,720-ton battleship *Nagato*.

From July 5-10 sustained mine-sweeping operations by ships of the British East Indies Fleet were carried out in the approaches to the Malacca Strait. A combined air and sea attack was made on radar installations, airfields, and shore batteries on islands in the Nicobar group. Carrier-borne aircraft attacked airfields in north-west Sumatra. On July 15 Liberators bombed the southern Siamese port of Songkhla.

*China and Indo-China.* Japanese forces south-west of Amoy were withdrawing towards Canton, while a similar retreat was taking place from the Luichow peninsula, west of Canton. The Japanese withdrawing from Kanchow were retreating up the Kan river in an attempt to join the garrison of Nanchang, capital of Kiangsi. The battle for the approaches to Kweilin developed, main Chinese columns having reached important positions on the railway and highway south-west and south of the city. Near the Indo-China border several Japanese units moved south to take up coast positions.

*Burma.* In the Sittang river bend initiative passed to the Allies, the Japanese falling back on Myitkyo. Trapped enemy forces were making desperate efforts to break out of the Pegu Yomas towards the Sittang River and severe fighting was reported, with heavy enemy losses.



## ERRATA

## THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The following corrections should be made to the text of the Charter printed in the issue of July 13:

In Chapter V, Articles 27, paragraph 3, the fourth line should read: "Chapter VI and under paragraph 3 of Article 52 . . ."

In Chapter XII, Article 85 should read: "The functions of the United Nations with regard to trusteeship agreements for all areas not designated as strategic . . ."

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